

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 – 7 (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A filter, comprising:
 - a filter body having a plurality of filter openings for filtering a medium flowing through said openings; and
 - each of said openings being screened or covered by elements whose state relative to said filter openings vary under the influence of the heat of said medium flowing through said openings.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously Presented) The filter according to claim 8, including said elements are punched out of said filter body in the shape of tongues positioned in said filter openings.
11. (Previously Presented) The filter according to claim 10, including said tongue shaped elements are formed from a shape memory alloy material.
12. (Previously Presented) The filter according to claim 10, including said tongue shaped elements are formed from a bimetal material.
13. (Canceled)
14. (Currently Amended) A dishwashing machine, the machine including a water medium utilized in the machine, comprising:
 - a filter for filtering the water medium in said machine;

said filter including a filter body having a plurality of filter openings for filtering the medium flowing through said openings; and each of said openings having a passage cross-section which varies automatically in response to a characteristic inherent to said medium flowing through said openings, including said filter openings being screened or covered by elements whose state relative to said filter openings vary under the influence of the heat of said medium flowing through said openings.

15. (Canceled)
16. (Currently Amended) The dishwashing machine according to claim 15 14, including said elements are punched out of said filter body in the shape of tongues positioned in said filter openings.
17. (Previously Presented) The dishwashing machine according to claim 16, including said tongue shaped elements are formed from a shape memory alloy material.
18. (Previously Presented) The dishwashing machine according to claim 16, including said tongue shaped elements are formed from a bimetal material.
19. (Previously Presented) The dishwashing machine according to claim 14, including said filter openings being screened or covered by flap-like elements, said flap-like elements having a first substantially covering position by a force effect of said medium flowing through said openings and can be adjusted to a second increased passage opening by an increased flow rate of said medium flowing through said openings.
20. (New) The filter according to claim 8, including said elements configured as clips, with said clips, in one state thereof, being positioned in said filter openings and lying in a plane of said filter body, whereupon said filter openings are screened by said clips, and, in another state thereof wherein

Attorney Docket No.: 2000P13026WOUS

said clips have been subjected the influence of the heat of said medium flowing through said openings, said clips have been moved by a selected one of bending and pivoting out of said plane of said filter body, whereupon said filter openings are no longer completely screened by said clips.